

to windward of the Island, to watch our American brothers. Addressing a fine young man, who was officer of the watch, I asked if it was his opinion, from his knowledge of his captain, that he could have the heart to hang up eight innocent men.

"I have no doubt of their execution, should a single Englishman die by the Governor's order, even if Murray's heart broke in witnessing it."

"It will be an act of hellish cruelty," replied I, "and call down from just heaven the vengeance of the most High, upon all the aiders and abettors in this most direful tragedy."

"I do not see, sir," said the young officer, "how the commodore can abandon thirteen men to a shameful death for obeying his orders. He is a humane man, an excellent officer, & one of great determination; he has worn out a strong constitution in blockading this abominable island, and, in my opinion, is seriously ill."

The lieutenant was right. Captain Murray died in ten days, evincing, in the agonies of death, his love for his country, by ordering his body to be buried in a sand bank off Curacoa, well knowing that his frigate could not be spared to convey it to Jamaica.

"Can I see the prisoners, Mr. Fleming?" approaching the first lieutenant.

"Undoubtedly, sir; show the officer to the Dutch prisoners."

And descended to the gun-room where they were surrounded by the sentinels, and attended by the chaplain, who addressed them in the French language, of which the burgomaster had sufficient knowledge to make himself understood. They all looked worn down by mental sufferings; and as the burgomaster placed a lock of his hair in my hands, he earnestly made me promise to have it conveyed to his young and lovely bride, with information that his dying thoughts should alone be fixed on her, whom he hoped to meet in another and a better world. I wanted comfort myself, therefore had none to bestow on him, poor youth! but ascended the deck in time to see this smart frigate furl her sails, come to anchor, and square her yards, making the signal for the squadron to do the same in close order. A shot from the mole, and one from the fort, proved us to be just out of reach of fire, but near enough to observe all passing on Fort Amsterdam, where the Dutch troops were drawn up in military parade, with the English prisoners in the centre of their square. The Dutch governor and his staff were on horseback in the fort, and masses of the people congregated about it. All eyes turned on the British squadron, as they displayed the flag that had braved the battle and the breeze. The commodore hoisted a white one at the fort, and fired a gun, his gig then left the frigate with a truce flag in her bow, and a lieutenant in full uniform, bearing letters to the Dutch governor from Captain Murray, and his prisoners. As the Dutch boat received our truce flag, our commodore, followed by the squadron, struck his flags and pendant half-mast, as mourning the necessity, and made the signal for the boats, manned and armed, to attend the punishment of death. At the same time eight yard ropes were rove, and the carpenter's axe and hammer might be heard fitting the platforms over each cat-head. Shocked at these preparations, I obtained their jolly-boat, and returned on board my own ship, where all eyes were turned on the Dutch governor, upon whose fate depended twenty-one lives. They had erected two triangles, on which lay a beam with thirteen halters displayed. The Dutchman and his staff, with spy-glasses, were keen observers of the squadron; and our commodore, with great tact, put his ships in mourning, tolled the bell as a passing knell, and ordered his bugles to play the dead march in Saul; and as they sounded mournfully over the calm bay, a shrill and piercing shriek was heard from the graceful person of the burgomaster's lovely wife, who with frantic energy embraced the governor's knees, and piteously begged for mercy on her husband. He must have been harder than adamant to have withstood this heart-broken and drooping flower. I saw him raise her, and order the gallows to be taken down. The prisoners were marched to the mole, and embarked in a large Dutch boat; and as she pulled for the commodore, La Franchise resumed her flags at the mast-head, dismissed all appearance of mourning and the crews of the squadron, that were clustered like bees in the rigging, simultaneously cheered, and I felt as if a mountain had been removed from my breast.

A Courageous Pleader.—The Metropolitan, in a sketch of the late Counsellor Sampson, has the following anecdote of his forensic courage, which strikingly illustrates the dignity and moral firmness of his character. At one of the government prosecutions before the bloody Norbury, a suborned witness was brought to prove, what was then the seal of condemnation and death, that the prisoner was a United Irishman, and had administered the secret oath of the Society, involving the penalty of death to others according to the form which was produced. A leer of satisfaction, never absent from his face, while the death of his victim was in prospect, lighted up the bloated eye of the judge, when the intrepid counsel took the paper in his hand, and in an emphatic tone, which commanded and arrested attention, he called upon the Court and jury to hear the oath for taking and administering which, they were about to condemn a fellow creature to the gallows; he then, to the astonishment of all, mounted the witness' box,

and read, with a voice, of which the loud and earnest tones were rendered still more impressive by his manner. "In the presence of God, I do voluntarily declare, I will persevere in endeavoring to perfect a brotherhood of affection amongst Irishmen of every religious persuasion, and that I will persevere in my endeavors to obtain an equal full, and adequate representation of all the people of Ireland." He paused a moment, looked up to the jury and the judge, and then, when the attention of every one was riveted on him, turned round to the witness at his side—"Is this the only oath the prisoner at the bar administered to you?" "It is." "Is the taking of this oath the only ceremony required to make a United Irishman?" "It is!"

The advocate looked at the judge, the jury, and the court, and lifting the Bible from the desk before him, while his commanding figure was raised to the fullest height, he strongly repeated again those memorable words, solemnly kissed it, "So help me God—I now call your lordship and the jury to bear witness, that I too am a United Irishman." He then turned to the crown lawyer, and added, "Mr. Attorney General, you may file your process, if you please; here is no need for perjury in your witness." The effect was irresistible; he left the box and sat down; and almost immediately after the prisoner was acquitted; but from that time, Sampson was marked for sacrifice.

A New Way to Raise the Wind.—A handsome young woman with blue eyes, black hair, and perfectly white skin was offered for sale a few days since, at the St. Louis street Exchange, by a man who pretended that she was his slave. Her complexion was so fair and she was so destitute of all signs of negro extraction, that those present began to feel dubious, and uttered some suspicions.

The girl herself said she was a slave and belonged to the man offering her for sale. The fellow, however, apprehensive that he was not altogether safe, had eloped through the crowd and was not to be found. Consequently, the "woman of color" was permitted to go free without a pass. The crowd were well satisfied that it was a mere swindling concern—a plan having doubtless been agreed upon that the proceeds of the sale were to be shared by the pseudo-master and pseudo-slave, after which an elopement was to have taken place; and although the woman was allowed to go free, yet it is doubtful whether the man would have got off so easy had he been found.

N. O. Picayune.
Abolition and Politics.—We understand that at the late Abolition Convention which sat at Pittsburg a resolution was passed to vote against the new Constitution of this State at the election in October. We further learn that this resolution was strenuously opposed by several prominent abolition delegates present, as giving them the appearance of a political party; but they were outvoted and the resolution passed as stated.
Washington Examiner

Mockery of the Law.—The trial of John Wilson, who it may be remembered, officiated as Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives, during the last Legislative session of that State—and who, on a certain occasion, walked down from his chair and slew Maj. J. J. Anthony, with a Bowie knife on the floor of the House, took place a few days ago.—The verdict of the jury was—"not guilty of murder but justifiable homicide."—*Louisville Journal.*

LOWER CANADA.
Lord Durham had been received at Quebec with every demonstration of joy by the inhabitants of all political opinions. Immediately after he had taken the oaths, he issued a proclamation addressed to the people of both provinces, in which we find the following passage:

"In one province the most deplorable events have rendered the suspension of its representative constitution, unhappily, a matter of necessity; and the supreme power has devolved on me.

"The great responsibility which is thereby imposed on me, and the arduous nature of the functions which I have to discharge, will naturally make me most anxious to hasten the arrival of that period when the Executive power shall again be surrounded by all constitutional checks of free, liberal and British institutions.

"On you—the people of British America—on your conduct, and on the extent of your co-operation with me, will mainly depend whether that event shall be delayed or immediate. I therefore invite from you the most free, unreserved communications. I beg you to consider me as a friend and arbitrator; ready at all times to listen to your wishes, complaints and grievances, and fully determined to act with the strictest impartiality."

After his Excellency had taken the oaths, he gave orders for a list of all the state prisoners to be laid before him on the ensuing morning.—*New York New Era.*

Electricity.—Why is the fire-side an unsafe place in a thunder storm? Because the carbonaceous matter, or soot with which the chimney is lined, acts as a conductor for the lightning. Why is the middle of an apartment the safest place during a thunder storm? Because should a flash of lightning strike a building, or enter it at any of the windows, it will take its direction along the walls, without injuring the centre of the room.

POLITICAL.

From the American Sentinel.

DAVID R. PORTER.

The only charge which the political opponents of this gentleman have been able to bring against him with even the appearance of truth, is that many years ago, during a period of great public distress, he became embarrassed in his circumstances, and was compelled to avail himself of the insolvent laws of the commonwealth. The following statement of facts, with which we have been politely furnished by a gentleman of the highest respectability, and well acquainted with all the circumstances connected with the transaction, will enable our readers to judge for themselves, whether Gen. Porter is deserving of the abuse which has been so freely lavished on him, or whether he is not entitled to commendation for the strict integrity and unwearied industry which marked his conduct in circumstances of a most trying and discouraging character.

When a young man about twenty-two years of age, David R. Porter came to Huntingdon county, from Montgomery county, the place of his birth; and entered as a clerk at an iron works, with a view to acquire a knowledge of the art of manufacturing iron, and the management necessary in conducting the business. He remained in that situation for some time. On the death of his father, a tract of land descended to him as his patrimonial portion.—About the year 1816, he sold his property for several thousand dollars; and in partnership with Edward B. Patton, purchased from Wm. Patton, Sligo Forge, situated in Franklin township, Huntingdon county.—The real estate was incumbered by sundry judgments obtained against Wm. Patton, previous to the sale. Patton and Porter commenced business, in which David R. Porter invested his whole available funds. They continued, during a period of pressure, to conduct their business with apparent success, until the year 1819 or 1820, when Edward B. Patton, having married the daughter of a wealthy citizen of that county, purchased the interest of his partner, David Rittenhouse Porter, in the real and personal estate connected with the iron business. The whole property was thus, with the assets of the firm, including outstanding debts, transferred to Mr. P. who bound himself to pay all the debts of the firm, and to pay David R. Porter the money he had invested, with interest upon it. Mr. Patton continued to prosecute the business up to 1821, when in the crash of the times he failed, and left unpaid large debts due from Patton and Porter, as well as debts due from himself. Among the latter was that due David R. Porter, in consideration of the purchase made from him. Thus Gen. Porter was left stripped of his patrimonial estate, and encumbered with the debts of the firm. By the management of others and the pressure of the period David R. Porter was borne down in the wreck produced by those times, the most disastrous and ruinous that ever swept over the interior of Pennsylvania. Many of our most enterprising citizens lost their all in those days, and were reduced from affluence to poverty. Pressed by debts which another had assumed to pay, and without means, he was compelled to avail himself of the benefit of the insolvent laws. Under the laws as they then existed, bail for the appearance of the applicant could not be received. Instead of sinking under the misfortunes, and leaving the country, or ceasing from exertions, David R. Porter, with a vigor and energy of mind, and untiring industry, which reflect credit upon him, set himself down, and became the architect of his own fortune. Under all his losses and misfortunes he retained the confidence of his neighbors, acquaintance and friends. On his moral integrity, his industry and enterprise all relied with unflinching confidence. The year succeeding his failure, the electors of Huntingdon county sent him as their representative to the legislature of the state, in which capacity he performed his duty to the perfect satisfaction of his constituency. On his return home in the spring, he married an amiable and excellent woman, his present wife, and now the mother of a numerous family of children. Pursuing a steady course of strict economy and untiring industry, he gradually liquidated and paid every debt he owed, either as an individual or as one of the firm of Patton and Porter, with the exception of a contested claim of the father-in-law of Edward B. Patton. On a due bill of that firm a suit was instituted, by the father-in-law, on or about the year 1820, against Patton and Porter, which has remained on the docket of the Court of Common Pleas of Huntingdon county from that period up to the present time. It was never put at issue until within the last few months. The plaintiff claims that this debt is due and unpaid. General Porter controverts it, and has always alleged, that in the various transactions between the father-in-law and son-in-law, this debt was actually liquidated, as the whole property of Patton, embracing the very stock and personal property, which David R. Porter had transferred to Patton, went, on the failure of Patton, into the hands and possession of his father-in-law and brother-in-law. As the subject is pending for judicial investigation, it would be improper to go further into the controversy than to show, that it is a disputed claim. It is certainly a misfortune for a man to fail and lose all his property, but it is not criminal. When the failing indi-

vidual surrenders all his property, without reserve, to the use of his creditors, and after that failure, by honest industry, retrieves his fortune, and pays up every debt, to the last dollar, he is worthy of high consideration, instead of blame. General Porter has not only done so, but has accumulated for himself a handsome competency. Not rich, but independent and easy in his circumstances, with an unblemished moral character, handsome attainments and great political experience, is he not worthy the support of freemen? It is cruel to say, that his early misfortunes, so nobly redeemed, should render him unworthy of the suffrages of the people; and we are much mistaken if the attempts of some of his political opponents to vilify him on that account do not receive the reward which it deserves.

The following letter was received by William L. Sebring, Esq. of Easton, a late member of the legislature, from Mr. John Williamson, of Huntingdon, who in 1836, ran on the antimasonic ticket for Congress, against Mr. Potter of Centre, and was beaten with but a small majority. Mr. Williamson is a gentleman of excellent standing. Read the following and hear what he says about Gen. Porter.

"Huntingdon, May 3, 1838.

Dear Sir:—I have heard of rumours in the county in which you live, respecting Gen. David R. Porter, which, if true, would be prejudicial to him—such as, that he was insolvent, and had defrauded his creditors. I have known Mr. Porter since the year 1818, and intimately since the year 1823, and have been intimately conversant with the business of this county since the last mentioned time—being myself in the practice of the law, and of course familiar with the records of the county of Huntingdon—and can truly say, that I have not seen in the long course of my practice, one single judgment on the record against Mr. Porter, that has not long since been satisfied. I speak now of the firm debts, in which he and his partner were in at the time of their failure in 1817—and as for any other claims or unsatisfied debts by any person or persons whatever, I know of none for there is no suit, not one, entered on the records here, nor need there be—for since the crash amongst the iron men here, at that day, Mr. Porter has, after honorably paying off all the responsibilities he was under, by his attention to business, and frugality, become quite independent.

"I have been for years politically opposed to Mr. Porter—have thrice supported Mr. Ritner—but in justice to Mr. Porter, I have no hesitancy in giving this letter to disabuse the public mind on that score. Mr. Porter, here where he is well known, is a highly esteemed and very popular man—and I am firmly of opinion must have a large majority here, where Ritner had 800 over Wolf and Muhlenberg.

JOHN WILLIAMSON."

THE NEXT GOVERNOR.

There is a virtuous purity in public sentiment that no extraneous power can trudge or render effectual. Feeling may exercise its sway in the hasty promulgation of individual sentiments; but when the mass of the people proclaim their views, they bring into exercise all their reasoning faculties, and do not act without due reflection and deliberation. Judging, then, from the published proceedings of numerous county meetings, we cannot perceive the least possible chance which the present gubernatorial incumbent can or may have for re-election. "Truth is mighty and will prevail." The inconsistency of Gov. Ritner as an antimason in appointing masons to office has alienated the feelings of the honest portion of that party, and in Lancaster, Lebanon, Union, and other counties, we see some of his former leading supporters, rallying in public under the banner of Porter and Democracy. His numerous projections of new works, without completing the works already begun, having disgusted the friends of internal improvements, and by involving the state in additional pecuniary difficulties, completely prevented capitalists from investing their funds in the various stocks of the Commonwealth; thus exhibiting to the people his unfitness, in a financial point of view, to fill the station he now occupies. His creation of banks and other monopolies—his unprecedented exercise of the veto power, assigning reasons in objection which never had foundation in truth, and which would have operated against bills which had already received his signature; all these, and many other official failings, attributable to the imbecility of his mind and the stubborn disposition which he manifests on all occasions, have raised in revenge the very hands which through majority bickerings elevated him to his present situation, and doomed his downfall at the coming election. These mismanagements are known, and in the primary meetings of the people they receive the condemnation which their opprobrious character deserve. But aside from these objections to his administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth, there are other convincing reasons why he cannot be re-elected. In 1835 he was elected by a minority vote of upwards of twelve thousand less than his competitors, and when neither the friends of Muhlenberg nor Wolf anticipated success to their favorite. Now there is a perfect union and harmony in the democratic party, and above this, a certainty of success.

No man, speaking candidly, will deny these facts—and their admission completely sustains our position that Ritner stands no possible chance for re-election.—*Pottsville Emporium.*

GOV. RITNER & GEN. HARRISON.

A few weeks ago we stated that we had been informed Gov. Ritner had deserted Gen. Harrison, and had allied himself with the friends of Mr. Clay. We gave some reasons to sustain this opinion, and called on the government organ, the *Telegraph*, to deny it. That paper has been silent as the grave. We have since learned, that the Governor has been waited on, upon the subject, and says he is not for Harrison, or any body else, at present, for President; that nothing should be said on that subject now,—that the first step is to elect himself Governor—it will then be time enough to talk about Harrison and Clay. The friends of Gen. Harrison have already proclaimed him as their candidate for Pennsylvania, come what may—and they regard the answer of the Governor, as a plain declaration of hostility to him. The plot thickens, and the friends of Ritner, who have hitherto been kept together and animated by the hope of bringing forward Gen. Harrison as the candidate of his administration, for President, will march off from his ranks in battalions; for it is now clearly apparent that Governor Ritner is covertly acting in concert with the whigs, to settle this disputed question in a National Convention, by the sacrifice of Gen. Harrison, and the nomination of Mr. Clay. We have nothing to say on the merits of this controversy, but it does appear to be with good reason, the friends of Gen. Harrison brand Gov. Ritner with the guilt of black ingratitude.—*Keystone.*

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

Ritner's Reforms.

Increase of the State Debt in SIX YEARS under Gov. WOLF'S Administration:

Daily,	\$6,329
Monthly,	249,870
Yearly,	2,988,450

Increase of the State Debt in THREE YEARS under Gov. RITNER'S administration:

Daily,	\$12,745
Monthly,	392,350
Yearly,	4,333,333

Farmers of Pennsylvania! You who are against a monstrous State DEBT, which must finally be paid by A STATE TAX, ponder well on the above facts.

What are Mr. Porter's principles?

They are good honest principles—just such as the democracy of Pennsylvania have always admired. His public acts prove what they are. He does not, like Gov. Ritner, profess one thing and practice another. He is opposed to carrying on useless and extravagant improvements, expending the people's money in folly and madness. He is in favor of reforming the abuses of Ritner's administration. He is opposed to shin-plasters, and in favor of a resumption of specie payments. His vote on the bill restricting the banks, shows that he is in favor of furnishing the people with a proper and legal currency. The fate of that bill in the Senate, proves that Ritner & his friends are the shin-plaster party. As for Joseph Ritner's principles, they are seven in number—*five loaves and two fishes.*

Milton Ledger.

We publish to day the proceedings of the meeting of the Democratic Young Men of Berks, held in this Borough, on the 4th inst. When we say that this meeting was perhaps the largest ever held in Berks county, that it was made up of young men from all parts of the County, and that it was conducted with the greatest possible order and decorum, and that the highest state of harmony and good feeling prevailed, we repeat but the sober convictions of our minds.—This meeting will have, doubtless it has already had a good effect—it will inspire the Democracy of Old Berks, with fresh zeal in the cause of the people—it will encourage both young and old to persevere in their labors—and it is the earnest of a good old fashioned majority of 3500 for Gen. Porter, in October next.

Reading Dem.

In the Senate this morning, June 8, Mr. Right presented, from the Committee on Finance, the views of the committee on Mr. Webster's resolution, directing certain inquiries as to some of the provisions of the act entitled "An act to regulate the deposits of the public money," passed on the 23d day of June, 1836. The report will be found the ablest of all the papers of that sort ever prepared by the distinguished chairman of the Finance committee. Nothing can exceed the clearness, justice, and force with which the policy of the administration—policy until recently professedly favored by a majority of its opponents in every thing else—the improvement of the currency by the exclusion of small notes in receipts of the treasury, is maintained in this new report of the Finance Committee. It will be seen that whilst the committee insist on the true principle upon the subject, they at the same time avow their willingness to relieve the banks from all the disabilities in that respect, incurred by the issue of small notes during the suspension of specie payments, upon a return within a reasonable time to the rule provided by the Deposit act of 1836.—*Globe.*